

**Blood Donor David Jaksa  
Information Technology Specialist  
Department of Information Technology  
State of Michigan**



David Jaksa recently reached a milestone in donating blood. On February 24, David gave his 160<sup>th</sup> pint of blood through the American Red Cross in Lansing, bringing him to 20 gallons.

David reflected on his years of helping to save lives, and his commitment to donating blood. Here are some of his thoughts.

1. Reaching the 20-gallon mark is an outstanding accomplishment as a blood donor. What do you remember about your first blood donation?

**Well, I was 18 years old and attending the University of Michigan in Flint. The one thing that I remember about my first donation was that I played a rousing game of fooseball. I was so pumped up from the game that the donation went very smoothly.**

2. What are some of your favorite memories from these donations?

**I always feel great when I leave and I have truly enjoyed reading about the history and the mission of the American Red Cross. There have also been many changes since I have been donating, many for the better.**

3. Each individual donor has their own reasoning behind why they donate. What is most important to you about donating?

**Just being able to give back to the community is the most important reason for me. So often, we are always taking from the community. Donating is a great way to give back because it takes such a small amount of time for something beneficial.**

4. If you have a message for someone that may be on the fence for donating, what would it be?

**Taking the time out of your day to donate is such a small inconvenience when you think about how important your donation is to someone that is need for blood.**



Chad Hier, an employee of the American Red Cross Blood Donor Center in Lansing, helps Dave donate his 20<sup>th</sup> gallon.